



**Minutes of Meeting**  
**CITIZENS' EFFICIENCY COMMISSION**  
**October 12, 2016**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Citizens' Efficiency Commissioners**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Larry Bomke	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jackie Newman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Josh Collins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Plunk
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kevin Dorsey	<input type="checkbox"/>	J.D. Sudeth
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Karen Hasara	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Robert Wesley
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mike Murphy		

**Others**

Ed Taft – Williamsville  
Marty Fairchild - Rochester  
Bill Riggs – Rochester  
Norm Sims – SSCRPC  
Molly Berns – SSCRPC  
Gail Weiskopf – SSCRPC

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Mike Murphy called the meeting of the Citizens' Efficiency Commission to order.

**II. ROLL CALL AND APPROVAL OF ABSENCES**

Chair Mike Murphy stated Mr. J.D. Sudeth telephoned him and will not be in attendance. Ms. Molly Berns stated Sen. Larry Bomke had emailed that he would not be in attendance.

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Chair Murphy asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 14, 2016, regular meeting. Mr. Robert Plunk clarified several corrections in the minutes. Dr. Dorsey moved to approve the amended minutes. Ms. Jackie Newman seconded the motion, and the amended minutes were approved. Mr. Plunk commented that 6 of the 11 pages of the minutes were devoted to Public Comments which is an indication that this was a very productive meeting.

**IV. INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Murphy asked for introductions. Guests were: Mr. Ed Taft the President of the Williamsville Fire Protection District and the President of the new Sangamon County Fire District Trustees Association, and Mr. Marty Fairchild who is a trustee on the Rochester Fire Protection District and the Vice-President of the new Sangamon County Fire District Trustees Association.

**V. REPORTS OF OFFICERS**

No report was given.

**VI. REPORT OF STATUS OF PROPOSED REFERENDUMS AND DISCUSSION**

Chair Murphy stated that Mr. Sudeth he had spoken with Mr. Fletcher Farrar from Illinois Times / Springfield Business Journal and provided contact information for Chair Murphy, Hon. Karen Hasara, and Sen. Larry Bomke for the referendums. Mr. Farrar indicated he would be more than happy to pass it along so that it would be placed in the two publications. Chair Murphy had not heard from anyone so Mr. Sudeth was going to do a follow up with Mr. Farrar.

Chair Murphy stated as for “print” he has sent an email to the State Journal-Register Editorial staff and he has not heard back from them. He spoke with Bernie Schoenburg, who told him that it would either be in the editorial section or in his column. Mr. Schoenburg also said he would follow up on that for the CEC. Chair Murphy stated he had contacted Joe Michelich who owns the South County Publications and he will be ready to put something in the paper closer to the election.

Mr. Norm Sims asked if they normally do an endorsement or a recommendation on those sorts of referendas at the same time they do candidates. Ms. Berns stated yes, they endorsed the continuance of the CEC. Chair Murphy stated we need to make sure we get that done.

Chair Murphy stated as for “electronic media” he has contacted Midwest Family Radio Station (WMAY/WNNS/WQLZ/WUSW), Neuhoff Media and Capital Radio Group and they are open to having someone form the CEC on. Chair Murphy stated he was on Tuesday, Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, Midwest Family Radio Station, WMAY 970 with Bishop in the morning. He was on approximately 20 minutes and they discussed the two referendums.

Mr. Plunk stated he had a conversation with Mr. Matt Witkos at NEWs Channel 20. Mr. Witkos initially spoke briefly about the two items on the ballot. Chair Murphy stated he has not reached out to Channel 20. Chair Murphy stated that Greg Bishop also covers the Illinois Policy Institute and after his interview was completed, Mr. Bishop recorded another 20 minute session to be used for the Illinois Policy Institute. Chair Murphy stated he anticipates that the CEC will be on a lot more radio stations. Mr. Sims noted that at least 22% of the voters will be early voting and maybe more, so it would probably be a good idea to go ahead and do some interviews and articles. Chair Murphy stated they would move up the time-table.

Chair Murphy stated that the last 3 or 4 months the focus of the CEC has been on the referendums, but in November that will no longer be the case. Chair Murphy would like the commissioners to start thinking about what the next steps will be. Chair Murphy stated he has some thoughts but he would like to hear from the commissioners.

Mr. Robert Wesley noted that one of the most interesting remarks he heard at the County Board presentation was from one board member who asked “why is everything rural”? Mr. Wesley stated he didn’t know that he was concerned about that, but it is something that he thinks the CEC should bear in mind because all four of the proposed referenda were about the rural areas of Sangamon County. Chair Murphy noted that one related to the pass-through districts did come forward because of a city issue. Mr. Wesley noted that the CEC will work through the County Board again and to be aware of the animosity that exists. Chair Murphy agreed that they were keeping score that the CEC thought the rural areas were messed up and the City was not and that was the clear message sent by the County Board. Chair Murphy stated that he was disappointed in that remark from the County Board member. Mr. Wesley agreed that he was too, but that if the CEC was going to be able to move forward in the future, cooperation was needed. Dr. Dorsey stated that maybe the “take-away” from this was that we (the CEC) need to be more sensitive to the fact that decisions that impact the rural areas can impact the City and the City is impacted by things in the rural areas like ambulance and fire coverage. He further stated that none of these folks are operating in a vacuum and that it’s really interconnected. Chair Murphy agreed and stated that when the CEC was talking about ideas earlier in the process, some of those definitely impacted the city and maybe negatively to the point that the city might not want to do some things. Mr. Wesley stated that the initial set of recommendations that the CEC did on fire and EMS would have directly negatively impacted the City because the recommendation was that the pass-through districts send their money out rather than contract with the City. Dr. Dorsey asked the visitors if they thought his thinking was out of bounds. Mr. Taft stated that he thinks in Sangamon County everything is interrelated. Chair Murphy and Hon. Hasara agreed. Dr. Dorsey stated that the CEC needs to be sensitive when information is presented and speak to the inter-

relatedness of the issues. Chair Murphy stated that he tried to make it clear that the CEC did not have an agenda against the county and that he had spent most of his life in Divernon which is about as rural as it gets.

## **VII. DISCUSSION OF TASKFORCE WORK PLANS**

### **A. Regional Leadership Council as Strategic Partner - Higher Ed Institutions as Strategic Partner – Robert Plunk & Jackie Newman**

Mr. Plunk noted that the next quarterly meeting for the RLC mayors will be Wednesday, October 26th, from 5:30 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. in the County Board Chamber. Mr. Plunk stated he will be out of town that week. Mr. Plunk stated he has talked with Chairman Brian Cuffle and gave him copies of the talking points for the two referendums: the abolishment of the township collectors, and the support for the RLC. Mr. Plunk asked Chair Cuffle to speak to the RLC members about these. Carol Kulek is on the agenda. She will be giving a presentation on energy efficiency. Carol worked for the State of Illinois but is now a consultant. She will discuss grants available for villages or any other governmental agency to take advantage of to implement energy efficiency operations. Mr. Plunk reiterated he will not be there and Ms. Newman will be out of town also. Mr. Plunk asked if any commissioners were available to attend the meeting that night. Chair Murphy and Mr. Wesley said they would try to be there.

Chair Murphy stated the September meeting for the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors was cancelled so he is on the agenda for the October meeting to speak about the referendums.

### **B. Sewer Transfer Study – Dr. Kevin Dorsey & Chair Murphy**

No report given.

### **C. Developing Legislative Linkages - Hon. Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke**

Hon. Karen Hasara stated when the new legislature is sworn in, the taskforce will get busy and get on the agenda for legislation delegation. Hon. Hasara said she was open to any bills that the CEC wants to push, the same ones from last year certainly and there are a number of efficiency bills sitting in the general assembly. Mr. Collins asked if the County has offered to use its lobbying firm again? Hon. Hasara said that they are on contract with them so there should be no problem getting their help unless they have some other big issues. Hon. Hasara said the taskforce does have a good start with their relationship with the legislative delegation and some of the issues will be the same. Chair Murphy asked if the State Efficiency group had done anything recently? Hon. Hasara said they have asked for some input. She has been with the Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti a couple of times and she suggested, not necessarily in relationship with the CEC, but in general, that she would like to come and do a presentation on issues. The Lt. Governor asked that Hon. Hasara get in touch with her Springfield person after the election to set up a time.

### **D. Developing Linkages with Townships - J.D. Sudeth & Chair Murphy**

Mr. Plunk stated he didn't know when their next association meeting was scheduled.

### **E. Developing Linkages with Fire/EMS – Robert Plunk & Robert Wesley**

Mr. Plunk stated there was not an update, but he thanked the visitors for attending the meeting. Chair Murphy asked the third gentleman to introduce himself. Mr. Bill Riggs from

Rochester Fire Protection District introduced himself. Mr. Plunk thanked him for attending the meeting.

Mr. Wesley admitted that he was not sure where to go from here. Chair Murphy reiterated that is something to ponder as he had mentioned early with the directions the CEC was going to go in the future. Chair Murphy stated that in November the CEC will have to have something to talk about.

**F. Create Network of Business Leaders - J.D. Sudeth & Josh Collins**

No report given.

**G. Regional Policing Study – Hon. Karen Hasara & Sen. Larry Bomke**

Hon. Hasara stated that she would like to bring this issue closer to the front burner. It is her understanding that the sheriff, now that he has been in office for a year or so, is more interested in pursuing this. Chair Murphy stated that his take from the meeting that the CEC held with the Sangamon County Sheriff, Chief Deputy, Chief of Police, and the Mayor of Springfield was that the working relationship between these groups was much better than the previous group that the first CEC met with in the sessions three or four years ago. Chair Murphy stated he hoped that the Chief and Sheriff were more open to cooperation and sharing resources. Chair Murphy stated one way to ensure that this is continued is by keeping them on the CEC's agenda. Hon. Hasara stated that she has not discussed this with Sen. Larry Bomke, but they would need to if they want to take the same route as before using the International Association for Chiefs of Police or if the CEC should find another avenue. Chair Murphy asked what Hon. Hasara thought about getting the two major players involved and ask them how they think the study should be done? Mr. Sims stated that part of this is to getting to some consensus as to what the study is. Hon. Hasara stated that before the CEC calls them in, we need to discuss things. Mr. Sims noted when the CEC met with them there were points of concurrence. One was on their data systems, one was on their communication systems, but there was no platform for them to get together and deal with concerns. This is the same way the CEC created a platform for the mayors to meet with one another in RLC. Mr. Sims stated that the starting point would be to decide what things the study could look at related to both of the entities. When the CEC started this years ago, one of the things done was to complete a grid that determined what each of the policing agencies did and which were the same things. Mr. Sims noted that the agencies need to know that the starting point is not that the CEC thinks that the police departments should be merged. Ms. Berns stated that one of the things that was discovered from the last meeting with the two major policing players was that pulling together a representative from the State's Attorney's office and from the Circuit Court's office to see what system they have and to look at where the deficiencies are with communicating with the police departments. Then reverse that and go back to the police departments for a study on the systems. Mr. Sims noted that there has to be concurrence as to if this is a study of the communicating systems and data systems, or is this a study of the management operations of the police departments. Ms. Berns stated that efficiencies in data management systems may be an avenue to explore as well. Chair Murphy stated he thought it was a good idea for the State's Attorney's office and the Circuit Clerk's (Court) office and then the two largest policing players involved to make sure that everything is done efficiently. Ms. Berns stated that was one of the hang-ups they had talked about, and sometimes examining something is the best way to decide if there is an issue. Mr. Plunk wondered if there was any preliminary information that could be put together for the CEC's information as commissioners before meeting with them of what some of those issues are. Hon. Hasara stated that she would like to hear from them, and the CEC should not decide what their issues are. Mr. Plunk stated he was not talking about deciding, but just wanted to feel better educated about it so when the CEC did talk to them we might be

in a position to inquire. Mr. Sims stated it depends on what is the purpose of the study; he has not heard anyone come to terms with it. What exactly are you studying? Mr. Sims asked if this is to be a management audit? Is the CEC going to look at their Information Technology programs and see where there are points of collision there? Is this to see what the relationship is between the Circuit Clerk, State's Attorney's and the police departments? Mr. Sims stated this started as a broader issue and now we are narrowing it and there is nothing wrong with that, but you need to decide what the thing is even to ask the question. What are we asking a question about? Hon. Hasara stated that the big broad general issue is to look at how we provide police services in Sangamon County and how it can be done more efficiently. Hon. Hasara stated that it is so broad that it needs to be narrowed down. Mr. Sims stated in the earlier work there were some things identified that made some sense and wasn't just Springfield and County but included other police departments. For example, why does everyone need their own evidence room? Why do we have small towns that have homicide detectives when they don't have any homicides? This means that if they ever went to court the case would probably be lost because they couldn't prove it. Hon. Hasara stated that those are the types of things that should be studied but under the broad umbrella that she just stated. Hon. Hasara stated that she wanted to talk to Sen. Bomke. Mr. Sims stated that the CEC had the discussion that they are all keeping different information systems, they are all keeping different file systems, and sometimes they have to exchange the files. That set aside if they are even going to exchange them between the police and the justice system or the court clerks. There were a number of functional areas that those questions were raised in previously. Hon. Hasara asked if he was suggesting that we don't need the broader study? Mr. Sims said no. He is saying that until a decision is made by this group on what it is you want to study, it would not be useful for the CEC to even go and talk to them or do a survey to deal with what we are even going to talk about. Hon. Hasara agreed. Dr. Dorsey stated but to Mr. Plunk's point if he were asked me what to identify the relationship between the sheriff's office and the City Police, he is clueless. He would like to hear, whether we see it on paper, an org. chart or they just tell the CEC: "What is the working relationship, and where do they overlap?" Mr. Sims noted he thought that was what they were getting into when they met with the CEC previously. They were talking about things and they were actually talking about things where they were up against one another. It made sense to them that something should come together. There may be a whole lot of areas that don't make sense to them to come together, or even if it did, they wouldn't want to do it. So if you wanted staff to ask them questions about what, what is the CEC asking them? Chair Murphy stated he didn't know how much of an expert the CEC would have to be to help them, facilitate them moving forward. The first CEC, he was on the sub-committee, had regular meetings with the City and the County. The CEC would ask them questions, and a lot of times the CEC just didn't know anything. The CEC would listen to them talk about it and the City would say one thing and the County would say the other. Then the CEC would ask a layman's question like explain to me why and then they would sit back and go "Oh, oh!" Chair Murphy explained he did not want to say the same story over and over, but it blew his mind that they have the SWAT teams together, but they could not work together because one went to training where they used colors and the other one went to training where they used numbers, so they had to go on separate floors. Chair Murphy asked them why? Mr. Sims noted there was even a difference of equipment. Chair Murphy stated if you are going to send them to training, send them to the same training. Hon. Hasara stated that when they were last at CEC, they stated that part of that had been worked out. Chair Murphy stated three years ago they agreed to start doing things so they could use them simultaneously. Chair Murphy explained that there is a benefit in just getting them talking together and someone needs to be there to ask why. Mr. Wesley stated he thought there was another part of it. It was clear in those committee meetings that the assumption was that combining them was the promise land idea. Mr. Wesley explained that was the way it seem to him and he does not know if that is accurate. He went back to the mayor's more general statement to say that all of this is operating under an umbrella of what is the best way to proceed for the safety and security of



the people of Sangamon County. It may involve the goal of combining them and it may not. What are barriers, what are the gains? He also wanted to get in Mr. Plunk's line because the kinds of things that are affected here are broadly based. There are two different unions and two different pension systems. Chair Murphy stated that he thinks there are three and that the villages, county and the city all have different retirements. Mr. Wesley stated what Mr. Plunk is referring to are not answers to these things, but what are the general issues that the CEC is going to have to deal with, and could it be considered barriers or benefits. Chair Murphy agreed that the CEC should not go in stating that the CEC's goal is consolidation or combining departments because he doesn't think that is the goal. Chair Murphy noted when the CEC was studying in the beginning, he doesn't apologize for anyone saying that one of things the CEC is going to look at is consolidation or combining. If the CEC is not looking at everything then the CEC is not doing its job. Just because the CEC looks at something doesn't mean it is the way to go. Without studying it you don't know. Mr. Wesley stated when he joined the team there was a great deal of animosity towards police and sheriff in that committee from a CEC member. Hon. Hasara stated that she was mayor when 911 were combined, while it is nothing like two police departments, there were three unions sitting in the same room all on different pensions, employed by three different entities. Hon. Hasara stated that there have not been a lot of complaints which is how she judges that it's going well. Mr. Wesley stated he believes it is something that can be managed and that he agrees with Mr. Plunk and Dr. Dorsey that it should be asked, "What are the big chunks that the CEC is trying to deal with here and in what shape are those things?" Mr. Wesley stated he does not really know about police and sheriff issue either. Hon. Hasara stated that the whole political environment, as we know, is different than when 911 was combined. Mr. Wesley stated that politics is a good thing to point to, because the sheriff is elected, the chief is appointed. There are very different traditions that go on with it. Mr. Sims stated just with what you are talking about we cannot draft questions or collect information until we know what the big chunks are. That is the starting point. Secondly, it seems to him that the two individuals that were talking to that the day had areas that they wanted to work together but didn't have a platform to do it. They were encouraging that and the other part of it is, God bless what is going on here and we think is important. If he was the Police Chief of Springfield or the Sheriff of Sangamon County he would not be sitting everyday thinking about what I could do to work with this other guy. That is not the most important thing on the table. So providing a way for them to get together, talk about things, and try to figure out what some of those chunks, and putting it on the agenda for them might be a useful thing. Chair Murphy told Mr. Sims what he just said is the most important reason why we are in the CEC, because every day they do not think about why should I work with the other guy. They are trying to get through their day the best that they can. And what the CEC needs to provide them with the platform to be able discuss things and to be more efficient by working with others. Mr. Sims stated he will go back and argue what he has argued before: The most important thing in the first report that was done was not the recommendations. Mr. Sims always thought it was the material in the back which said these people don't have the opportunity to go to a place to talk and work together. The CEC is not providing them local assistance, particularly in the smaller villages, to even figure out what to do. Mr. Sims stated that the CEC has heard stories about that over and over again: we have no way to do that. If we could do some of those things, the kinds of things we are looking at, he thinks things will fall into place. He is sure they meet. He is sure there are task forces. He is sure some of their squads work together. But their number one focus is not to create more efficiency. That is not the job. Ms. Newman stated that she thought when they came and presented to the CEC, one of the things they talked about was that they got together periodically and that they did discuss those things in which were commonalities. Mr. Sims said that that was correct. Mr. Sims stated that there were at least 3 or 4 things that they were trying to do. Mr. Sims stated that is how the Circuit Clerk came up. Chair Murphy stated what the CEC needs to do is follow-up with them, make sure those meetings are still taking place and those things are actually being done.

Chair Murphy said he would like the commissioners to break down some issues that they would like to discuss with the Springfield Chief of Police and the Sangamon County Sheriff whether it is communications or records. Mr. Sims stated a useful question to the International Association of Chief of Police would be do you know of any place where you have police departments like this that are working well together that have some cooperative, not the normal SWAT team kind of stuff, but on the administrative side. Can you tell us who they are so we can find out what they are doing and what we are not doing. Chair Murphy stated we know this is a concern because of Indianapolis merged all their county thirty-four years ago and their policing is still not totally merged. Chair Murphy said they have one school district. Hon. Hasara said they were waiting on merging the fire departments. Chair Murphy stated that they were down to 2 or 3 at the time of the visit. Mr. Sims stated that when we met with the Director of Public Safety, it had been hard to finish what they were doing with police because he had done that for Jefferson County, KY and he was down in Texas doing the same thing. He was the assistant police chief and hired in Indianapolis. Chair Murphy stated that would probably be enough homework. Hon. Hasara told Mr. Sims that he made a good point and that she would reach out to him (the Asst. Police Chief, Indianapolis). Hon. Hasara stated that the task force had determined that it would not be a good idea to use the Illinois Association of Chief of Police because past employees in Springfield could be biased. She wanted to make sure everyone agreed with going outside of Illinois. Mr. Plunk stated that Chair Murphy wanted to know what direction the CEC is going to go after the election. He stated maybe one of the things the CEC should anticipate doing is meeting with the Sheriff and the Springfield Chief of Police. He asked if November the 9<sup>th</sup> was that a little early, or if they wanted to wait until December or after the first of year and pursuing this in January? Chair Murphy told the commissioners to get their thoughts together for anything they would like to move forward with, bring them to the November meeting, and we will get a game plan together to put them into motion. Mr. Plunk stated in January the CEC should be getting serious about the final report due in April. Mr. Collins asked what the expiration date of this CEC. It was confirmed by several members to be April. Mr. Collins asked if it was the expectation that this group would end at the end of April. Chair Murphy has talked to County Board Chairman Andy Van Meter has indicated that there will be a renewal of the CEC. The renewal would be placed on the agenda for the approval by the County Board. Ms. Berns stated if the term that end date is April it could be placed on the agenda as late as March or April. Mr. Collins asked if continuing this CEC would have to be by a referendum or could I be by action of the County Board? Several members indicated it could be by action of the County Board. Mr. Sims said there are two questions: one being if it is continued, he doesn't know that the CEC is doing a report because the current ordinance doesn't require a report, but the CEC may want to do one. And the second question is: because this is so different from where you were in this term verses the first, what would be the nature of the report? Chair Murphy stated that it would not be anything like the first one. He stated that the CEC will move forward and get done what we can get done. The report can be what we did or didn't do. Hon. Hasara stated it may be good to take a couple of months off after April. Mr. Wesley stated one of the conversations the CEC should have is about our relationship with the County Board. He stated he has never been satisfied with the relationship. Hon. Hasara stated she doesn't know what the County Board would do. Chair Murphy agreed with both of them and said he was just relaying the information from Chairman Van Meter which was before the last meeting. Mr. Wesley said he would also like to add that this is a negotiation not a dictation at least not how he is looking at it. He doesn't remember when he was satisfied with the relationship between the CEC and the County Board. So one of the conversations the CEC might have is precisely that. Hon. Hasara said the County Board is made up of 29 elected officials, so she doesn't think the CEC can dictate to them. Chair Murphy stated that prior to the April CEC; he will have a discussion with Chairman Van Meter. Mr. Wesley stated he is in agreement with Hon. Hasara that the CEC takes some time off which gives us time before the County Board votes to think things over. Chair Murphy proposed the idea after the election he would talk to Mr. Brian McFadden and

tell him that the CEC would like for Chairman Van Meter and him to attend a meeting and we can talk about the future of the CEC. Mr. Sims asked if he could suggest some large chunks to that to that discussion.

- 1) What in their minds in the nature of this group;
- 2) Is this an ongoing entity that is therefore a commission council of the County Board; or is this an interim / intermediate / ad hoc group that is brought together to do something;
- 3) Depending on the type of entity, then what is the structure of this thing; and
- 4) How are they going to support it?

Hon. Hasara stated she felt strongly that Chairman Van Meter would say we are not an arm of the County Board. She stated some of us may think we are and maybe they treat us that way, but Chairman Van Meter does not see us as that. Mr. Sims explained his point the County Board establishes other board and commissions that can act on authority given by the County Board. Mr. Sims said at some point a decision has to be made if this is a permanent body or not. Chair Murphy stated that the CEC needs to have this discussion and that the December meeting would be a good time. He said he would try to arrange the meeting. Mr. Wesley stated a good example of what he is talking about is that we have gone on and on and on with Fire and EMS and it got shot down. There was a lot of work that went into that and without any connection with the County Board. They have the authority to do that, and that is not the complaint that he is making. The complaint that he is making is that we had absolutely no notion where the County Board was on any of the things that we presented to them. Hon. Hasara stated at the Election Oversight Committee meeting, she felt that the CEC was fine. There was one member that expressed something about the township collectors. Ms. Berns stated one other thing to add to Mr. Sims' list that might be helpful is to express the need for more communication between the CEC and the individual County Board members. She stated quite frankly she was not sure the extent to which the County Board members understand what the purpose and the notion of the CEC is, was, or will be in the future. She thinks there needs to be more communication. Hon. Hasara stated she thought there would always be County Board members that don't want us in business. Chair Murphy stated that is probably not that bad. He stated we need to make sure that we are free and independent because we are going to make recommendations that. Ms. Berns stated that may be there should be a little more understanding of the purpose of the CEC. This is a good time to do that because you find out what Chairman Van Meter's intent is in terms what Mr. Sims said: a monthly meeting, an arm of the County Board, an ad hoc committee to solve issue by issue. Mr. Plunk agreed with Hon. Hasara that there are board members out there that would like to see our existence end. He thinks what would be important for this body to understand why they feel that way. But on the other hand he thinks it is important with this body also understands why some board members think that there should be a commission that continues and what do the individual members of the County Board really expect of this commission. Hon. Hasara said but when you analyze it the only reason we need their approval is on these referendas. To her the rest is up to the CEC to go out and convince the public. Mr. Wesley stated it makes it a political issue because they are the elected politicians. Mr. Wesley said that they have campaign structures and we don't. So to him when it comes to politics of these things it is the County Board, and when the CEC deals with the City it is the City Council. He said he is not equipped to go out and do the "politicking" on these issues. They are elected to make these decisions. We were appointed to say what is an inefficiency. Mr. Plunk said maybe that is a lesson learned from the past six years. He doesn't recall the CEC ever sitting down with a County Board member or a group of County Board members on any recommendation, and asked them what they think of what the CEC has said. Hon. Hasara asked why we wouldn't include the City Council in that because they have just as much at stake as the County Board except when the CEC has a referendum to go on the ballot. Other than that, the City has just as much at stake as the County. Chair Murphy said he thought it was dangerous if the CEC only got feedback from the County Board then the CEC would not be the independent body that it needs to be. Hon. Hasara stated that the CEC has had very little connection with the City Council. Mr. Plunk



agreed with Mr. Wesley that the CEC got shot down on the Fire/ EMS things. But on the other hand there were positive things that happened. We had some very productive discussions with the fire chiefs. It is too bad that we didn't have more discussions with fire district trustees. He thinks the opportunity would have been greater if they would have had an association, but that doesn't take away the fact that the CEC should have probably pursued that more. But we had some good discussions with some of the fire chiefs that lead to better understanding of what Fire/EMS was in the county and what some of their concerns were and where they may have agreed on things and where they were opposed. Mr. Plunk stated the CEC got some feedback from the township people about these collectors. That was kind of here and there where they had some voices and we went out to public information meetings and gave them the opportunity to express their feelings. He said the CEC gained some things over the years.

#### **VIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

#### **IX. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Next Meeting Date – November 9, 2016, at 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

#### **X. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Taft stated that he thinks we all have the same interests of doing what is best for the people of Sangamon County and they are more than happy to work with the CEC and answer any questions or to resolve any issues before they become problems. The next meeting of the Sangamon County Fire District Trustees Association will be Monday, December 5, 2016, at 7:00 P.M. at the Rochester Fire House. Their meetings are quarterly. Mr. Collins asked if most of the trustees were appointed or elected? Mr. Taft stated most of them are appointed; there are just a few districts that have elected trustees. Rochester, Riverton, and Mechanicsburg are elected. Curran is appointed by the township. Mr. Fairchild stated that Grandview Fire Department is appointed by the Grandview Village Board.

Mr. Plunk stated Riverton Fire Protection had a open house. They had a helicopter come in.

Mr. Fairchild stated the Rochester has a house used for demonstration to teach child how to get out. Mr. Taft said they also have the EMS helicopter come in.

#### **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Mike Murphy asked if there were any further comments. There being none, he called for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Wesley motioned to adjourn. Mr. Collins seconded the motion. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gail Weiskopf  
Acting as Recording Secretary